DID YOU KNOW

READER QUESTION: What can I recycle in Winchester?

JOYCE WESTNER | STAFF WRITER

August 14, 2024 . 2:54 PM — 2 min read

What can you recycle? Check out these types of things you can and cannot recycle. COURTESY PHOTO/RECYCLESMARTMA.ORG

A reader recently asked Winchester News what can be recycled i
community. In Arlington, where trash is picked up weekly, black p

Subscribe

isn't allowed in the recycle bins, but in Winchester it's a different story.

"Black plastic makes up a fairly small percentage of the recyclable material we take in and we have not exceeded the 8% acceptable limits of non-recyclable material," said Transfer Station Manager Nick Parlee. "We haven't exceeded that acceptable limit in my five years in Winchester."

Subscribe

A list of what can and cannot be accepted at the Winchester transfer station. COURTESY PHOTO/ AUGUST WESTNER

He recommends residents look at the state Recycle Smart MA website, which not only lists what can be recycled (although it says "no bl plastic") but also shows where Winchester recyclables go.

Subscribe

Most residents know that it's easy to recycle metal and plastic containers, but it's important to make sure they're clean. Pizza boxes can be recycled even if they're greasy, as long as they don't have food attached.

In many places in the state, these types of black containers are not recyclable. COURTESY PHOTO/AMAZON.COM

Subscribe to our newsletter!

Folks sometimes wonder about cords and cables, but anything that could tangle isn't allowed. Fabrics aren't allowed either — a state law requires they be disposed of elsewhere and Parlee said the Red Cross boxes at the transfer station entrance is a good place for them.

The Red Cross, he added, sells fabric to be made into insulation if it's not usable.

Subscribe

Other items that cannot be recycled include tissue paper used in gift bags, and cards with glitter.

Subscribe

A resident empties recyclables into a receptacle. COURTESY PHOTO/AUGUST WESTNER

Subscribe

A fun activity for all ages is Recycle Smart's quiz.

Parlee also said the town plans "to address the issue of recyclables do's and don'ts with a direct mailer to all residents who purchased a permit this year."

Here's more information about the transfer station, a film your writer co-produced, This is Winchester: The Transfer Station is not a Dump.

Have you got a question you would like Winchester News to answer? Email us at editor@winchesternews.org.

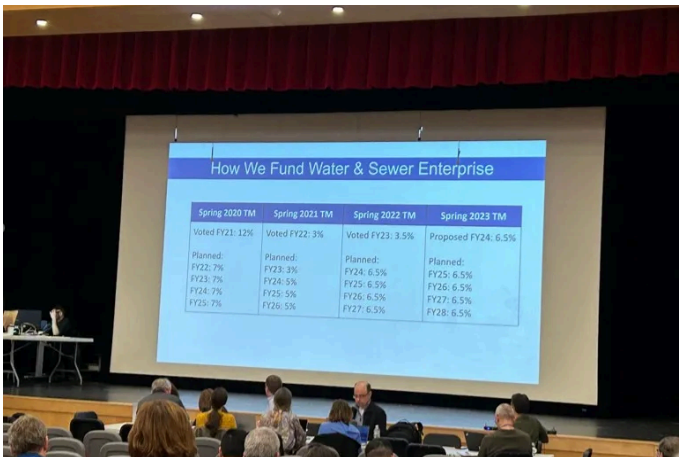
Winchester News is a non-profit organization supported by our community. If you appreciate having local Winchester news, please donate to support our work, and subscribe to our free weekly newsletter.

Related

DID YOU KNOW

DID YOU KNOW: What is an Override?

In Massachusetts, property tax overrides are generally governed by Proposition 2 ½, a



DID YOU KNOW

DID YOU KNOW: What is Representative Town

When Winchester News lau
did several stories on how certain

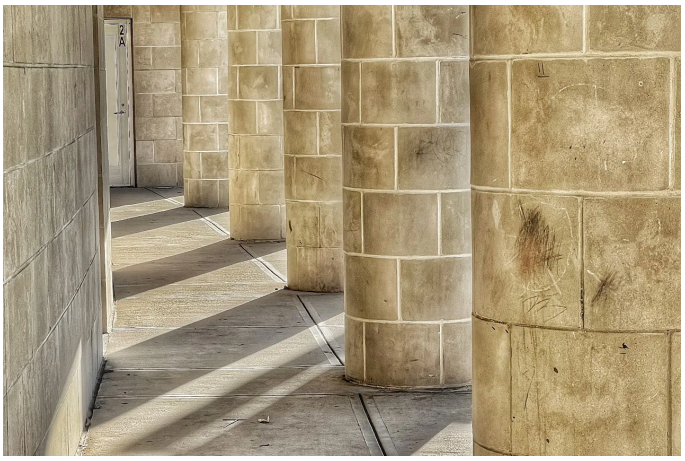
Subscribe

state law (M.G.L. Ch. 59, § 21C) that limits the amount of revenue a municipality may raise from property taxes (limit is based on the total of all categories of real property and business owned personal property)

TARA HUGHES | STAFF WRITER
February 12, 2026

departments and entities in the community worked. One of those was Town Meeting. Believe it or not, there are still some folks in town who aren't aware that Winchester has a representative Town Meeting or that they

NELL ESCOBAR COAKLEY | STAFF WRITER and TARA HUGHES | STAFF WRITER
January 13, 2026

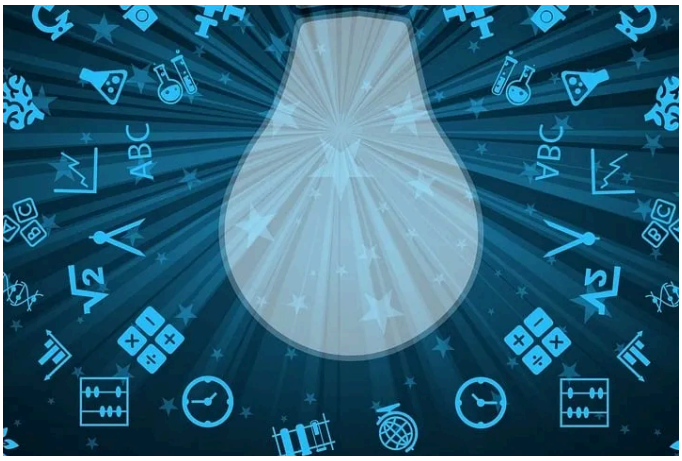


NEWS

How well do you know Winchester?

By Joyce Westner Jan. 4, 2024 Third in the series. Retired photographer Frank Siteman has taken photos of places downtown, and your job is to guess where they were taken. Send an email to editor@winchesternews.org if you know the answer. Last week we had two winners--George Wood and

JOYCE WESTNER | STAFF WRITER
January 4, 2024



NEWS

Did You Know – Historical Commission

By Jack LeMenager, Winchester Historical Commission Chair, Nov. 25, 2023 What attracted us to Winchester in the first place? Many residents would cite its excellent schools as well as its proximity to Boston. The town's historic built environment would also rank high on that short list. It is the

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
November 25, 2023

Latest

Subscribe

EVENTS

Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER
March 4, 2026

FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On

Subscribe

High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
March 4, 2026

Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026

WINCHESTER NEWS
A TRUSTED AND RELIABLE SOURCE OF LOCAL NEWS

Subscribe to Winchester News

© 2026 Winchester News Group, Inc. Copying and sharing with permission for non-commercial use only.

Subscribe